

city college news

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A Bulletin For And By George Brown Employees

Caretaker appreciation program, "No Food/Drink" policy in the works

The "Caretakers Support/Profile" initiative, intended to show greater appreciation for caretakers, and the "No Food/Drink" policy, banning everything but clear liquids from classrooms are just two examples of what is being done for Action Plan item 8—"We Share/We Care."

Director of Facilities Management Bashar Amer is the lead staff member for two components of "We Share/We Care"—the "Quick Response" program, and also the "Caretaker Support/Profile" initiative.

"The Quick Response program is scheduled to be implemented in September," according to Amer. "We are still in the planning stage, but I can say right now that we hope to install signs in public areas inviting people to call the service desk to report housekeeping or maintenance concerns, which will be handled on a priority basis."

Amer adds that for the caretakers project, "We have already begun a few new training programs as well as an annual recognition program for top performers (which was started in December, 1999). We are also looking at upgrading the staff uniforms and some of the cleaning equipment—our first

purchasing phase will take place this summer."

"We Share/We Care" is designed to look at the current state of George Brown facilities and work on how to address the various issues that exist; "To foster attitudes and behaviours that engender mutual respect, pride and a sense of security in our facilities," according to the Action Plan document.

Probably the most controversial component of this Action Plan item is the "No Food/Drink" policy, (see Letters to the Editor section on page 2). According to the Accountability Chart which details all Action Plan items, Deans from the four faculties are set to meet in March to draft guidelines. Consultations will then take place in April involving both students and staff. And the policy will come into effect in May.

But while no one would disagree that something must be done to "clean up the College," some would argue that this is the best course of action. Community Worker program professor Thomas Ponniah actually conducted an experiment of his own that simulated this policy, during the 1998/99 academic year.

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TORONTO, February 22, 2000, 3:30 p.m.—Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Dianne Cunningham chats with George Brown President Frank Soroichinsky after announcing SuperBuild Growth funding of \$32 million for two George Brown College projects. The announcement was made at a press conference at Ryerson Polytechnic University. Cunningham said the large amount of SuperBuild money given to Toronto-area institutions reflects enrolment patterns. "The students have chosen where they want to go and they have chosen the Greater Toronto Area," she told reporters.

College to grow in key sectors by 2,300 new students with support from SuperBuild Fund

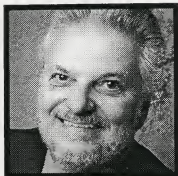
Starting in 2003, George Brown will have the capacity to enroll 2,300 additional students a year in key economic growth sectors, including advanced technology, financial services, graphic communications and health care, thanks to provincial SuperBuild funding.

This enrolment increase will help meet the growing demand for college education in the Greater Toronto Area, including the double cohort of high school graduates expected in 2003

The funding, totaling \$32.1 million, was announced on Tuesday, Feb. 22 by Ontario Training, Colleges and Universities Minister Dianne Cunningham. It's the largest amount of funds for building the College has ever received.

The money will be used to build new facilities at two of the College's downtown campuses, and a centre for studies in community health, created in collaboration with Ryerson Polytechnic University, to be built at the university's downtown campus.

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from the president

Frank Sorochinsky

As I sat down to write this column for *City College News*, it occurred to me that our inaugural Change events, the Building our Future forums, took place almost exactly four months ago.

Although there is a high level of activity associated with the Change project, most of it, until this point, has been 'behind the scenes.' I realize that many of you are anxious to see concrete actions with quantifiable results, and I share in your anticipation and sense of urgency.

It may be hard to recognize at times, but I assure you that work on the Action Plan has begun in earnest. Let me take this opportunity to fill you in on some of the activities that are taking place throughout the College. A restructuring of enrollment planning has begun, as have actions to improve registration and timetable processes (see Action 3). A new student advisement project is also well underway (see Action 1). In fact, to date we have met every timeline outlined in the Action Plan, which continues to reinforce my confidence in our ability to achieve the very ambitious results outlined in the Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff who are involved in some of the key Actions to date. This list includes (but is not limited to): those involved with the Enrollment Management Team; the Implementation Committee; students and staff in the Jewellery Arts program who designed a recognition pin; everyone who helped organize the recent Student Forum at Casa Loma; those staff who participated in the Facilitator Training session; and the Security and Safety Review Working Group.

Of course, some of the most significant change activity is happening through the divisional/departamental plans. I encourage you to take the time to familiarize yourself with your area's plan, if you haven't already, and to identify ways that you can get involved. These plans provide a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get involved in change, and will produce results you can readily identify.

College-wide Actions taken thus far have been very process-oriented, and I realize that it can be difficult at times to see evidence of much significant change to this point. I am relying on each of you to stay focused on change, and to keep your spirits up as we move through this admittedly difficult period.

Once again, I'd like to thank everyone for their dedication to the Change Project. As always, your comments, suggestions and feedback on the Change Project and the Action Plan are most welcome (contact numbers are listed below).

Frank Sorochinsky, ext. 4471; Michael Cooke, ext. 2569; Susan Heximer, ext. 2328.

letters to the editor

Coffee in class

I have recently been informed of a new classroom policy which I view as unfair and degrading. The new policy is regarding food and beverage consumption in the classroom. It states that only "clear" liquids may be consumed, e.g. water. However, this policy excludes coffee. I happen to drink "black" coffee, which is in a sense clear, but I presume not to be covered under this policy.

Because I consider this to be a counterexample to any fairness of the rule, I feel that this policy should be discontinued. It is understandable to have such a policy in a carpeted room, but it does not make sense in a non-carpeted room. Most students are responsible enough to take care of spills and messes made in a classroom. I can only assume that the universal nature of this policy is due to a lack of confidence in the students' sense of responsibility.

The purpose of this college's training is to prepare the students to work in their chosen fields. I have yet to see an office where coffee or tea is outlawed. I have no desire to quit drinking coffee. I also work nights and so often use the stimulant to stay alert and active in class.

So I argue that this policy is unfair. The school's administration has no place to tell me that I must quit drinking coffee in class.

Aubrey Harris, First year Human Resources student.

In response

The policy is scheduled to go into effect in May. We will carry out some intensive consultation in the next two months to determine how to best achieve the objectives of the recommended action while also addressing the kind of concerns you raise. I will ensure that your views are included in the discussion as we proceed.

Michael Cooke, Change Project Co-ordinator

You have a voice in City College News! Your comments are welcomed

City College News will publish letters submitted by George Brown staff and students. The submissions should be relatively brief (maximum 200 words) and should concern topics of widespread interest to the College community. Submissions may be edited for length, style and grammar. *City College News* reserves the right to choose the submissions it publishes. Submissions should be sent by e-mail to nmcgilli@gbrownc.on.ca. Otherwise they can be faxed to (416) 415-2303 or delivered to the Communications and Marketing Department in Room 542E, 200 King St. E. (St. James Campus).

College plans for safety audit

The College's Personal Safety Working Committee (PSWC) is planning for a safety audit of the College this spring. The Committee was struck last fall shortly after the sexual assault incident at the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism and has been meeting since mid-December, 1999, in response to Item 8 in the Action Plan ("We Share/We Care").

According to Mary Samuel, Human Rights Advisor to the President and PSWC Chair, "the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) did an audit of the College's physical environment nine years ago and it's definitely time for a new one."

On February 18, METRAC presented the Committee with a two-phase proposal involving short- and long-term plans to

update the College's safety facilities. The first phase will end April 1 and the second will be nine weeks long, ending on June 2. The Committee will be making a decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposal very shortly.

"If we do go ahead with their proposal," says Samuel, "...the College will be working with METRAC on developing updated brochures, policies and training. As well, we plan to create a personal safety page on the College's Web site. And the Committee has also been asked to provide input on how next year's annual Safety Grant from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities will be spent." This grant will come into effect starting April 3—the beginning of the 2000/01 fiscal year.

The Committee will be deciding on actions such as

whether or not to increase the number of emergency telephones and hallway mirrors throughout the College, and whether or not new safety features should be added to the mix.

The following is a list of activities the Committee has completed to date:

- reviewed existing policies; developed a draft Personal Safety Policy;
- produced and distributed new stickers for phones (highlighting security information and phone numbers);
- reviewed existing brochures; made plans to update them;
- met with Evening Campus Supervisor to get feedback on evening community issues.

Samuel is pleased with the phone stickers. "Their design is very clear and their placement on every phone receiver makes them



Jean Wilson of the Athletics and Recreation Department at St. James Campus shows off her phone with the new safety sticker attached. The sticker lists numbers for campus first aid and security staff.

a handy reminder that people can identify easily, especially because they feature the College logo," she adds.

For more information, call Mary Samuel at ext. 4646.

SuperBuild, continued from page 1

"These state-of-the-art facilities and the training they make possible will help fuel economic growth in key sectors and allow more of our graduates to help shape Ontario's bright future," says George Brown President Frank Sorochinsky.

The College received SuperBuild funding for two projects: \$17.2 million for its *Building Our Future* initiative, to allow George Brown to create new facilities at two of its downtown campuses; and \$14.9 million for the joint project with Ryerson to build the *Ryerson/George Brown Centre for Studies in Community Health*.

The new facilities at George Brown, which will accommodate

annual enrolment growth of 1,800 new students, will consist of:

- An addition to the main building of the College's Casa Loma Campus at 160 Kendal Ave. that would replace the building at 146 Kendal Ave. This extension is planned to include state-of-the-art lab and classroom space for a number of high-technology programs including advanced microelectronics, information technology and building engineering technology;
- A building adjacent to the College's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism at 300 Adelaide St. E. that will permit increased enrolment in high-demand program areas such as financial services, graphic communications, and

hospitality and tourism, and also allow for growth in the College's nursing programs. The total cost of the two facilities is estimated at \$29.6 million, with the College contributing \$12.4 million through its partnerships with the private sector and a fundraising campaign spearheaded by the George Brown College Foundation.

The *Ryerson/George Brown Centre for Studies in Community Health* will be designed to house programs that address the pressing health and social issues that face Ontario, including: the aging of the population, the needs of young children, and the restructuring of the health care and community support systems in the province.

In particular, the two institutions will collaborate to

create a new four-year degree program in Gerontology. In addition, the existing Early Childhood Education programs at the two institutions will be aligned to allow qualified graduates of the College's two-year program to enter the third year of Ryerson's four-year degree program.

The new programs are expected to enroll about 500 students by 2003, while total enrolment in health sciences and community services programs at both institutions is expected to rise by more than 1,100 students as a result of the partnership.

For more information, call Bob Struthers, Vice President of Corporate Services at ext. 4476.

RIDGID Tools/Home Depot donate power tools



Building Renovation student Christine Groves (shown at left) tries out a new RIDGID Tools table saw with guidance from the company's Senior Product Manager John Bartlett at a presentation in the carpentry lab at Casa Loma Campus, on February 15. The saw is among 13 pieces of equipment that were recently donated to George Brown by RIDGID Tools and Home Depot.

RIDGID Tools is also offering four "tool scholarships" to students in the Building Renovation program—the selected students will be awarded RIDGID power tools. George Brown was the only Canadian

postsecondary institution chosen for the donation, after a North American search. Three colleges in the United States also received similar donations.

"You've got a building renovation program that is like nothing we've seen," RIDGID's Director of Marketing Dave Hazelwood told a group of staff and students on hand for the presentation. The new tools—including a portable planer, drill press, band saw and sander—are valued at \$8,000 and will be used by about 200 students in the College's Building Renovation, Carpentry, and Construction Management programs.

For more information, call Tom Stephenson at ext. 4393.

Students comment on courses, faculty

The results are in: Students from across the College have critiqued their classroom experiences in the latest round of the Student Feedback Questionnaire. Co-ordinated by John Price, Special Projects Manager for Academic and Student Affairs, the most recent round of the questionnaire was completed early last December. In total, nearly 1,800 courses were analyzed and rated by students across the College, a 68 per cent success completion rate, according to Price.

The questionnaire is comprised of 38 questions and asks students to rate various elements of their learning experience, including course design, management, content and delivery. Students can either agree or disagree (moderately or strongly) to

questions like, "The reasons for this course being included in the program are clear"; and "The teacher knows whether or not the class understands the material."

This questionnaire was developed in 1998 in response to a request from the Student Association that students become involved in developing a course evaluation process. Senior Management responded by setting up a committee comprised of faculty, students, senior management and an outside consulting firm—Compustat Consultants. After meeting with the committee, Compustat developed the questionnaire and have been administering it near the end of each semester since November, 1998.

"(The questionnaire) allows the College to respond in a timely and appropriate manner to the ongoing

need for accountability," says Price. "The fact that results are tabulated by an outside body ensures that the process remains confidential and the results are an unbiased reflection of students' assessments of their courses," he adds.

Results for each faculty member are distributed only to that person and his/her Chair or Dean. A copy of the College-wide results is kept in the office of Maureen Callahan, Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs.

"The results are never used in a punitive way," says Price. "It is expected that results will be an invaluable tool to help faculty members construct professional development plans in concert with their academic leaders." They are also used to inform curriculum development and the planning of course outlines.

To help ensure the questionnaire is fulfilling its purpose as a tool for improving the educational experience of the College's students, focus groups have been planned for this spring, according to Vice-President, Human Resources Sally Roy. The Student/Staff Issues Subcommittee will be organizing the research, which will involve a cross-section of students from the St. James and Casa Loma Campuses.

John Price would like to thank the academic departments for their assistance in distributing survey packages, instructions and survey results. "I am very pleased with how efficiently the project was handled by everyone involved," he adds.

For more information, call John Price at ext. 2543.

news in brief

Clerical Workers Centre renamed

On March 1, the Clerical Workers Centre, a Community Services project of George Brown College, will officially change its name to Office Workers Career Centre. All addresses and numbers remain the same (phone — (416) 415-4610; fax — (416) 415-4620; address — 365 Bloor St. East, Suite 1802, Toronto, M4W 3L4; Web — www.officeworkers.org). Created in 1997, the Centre facilitates the development of pre- and post-layoff adjustment programs, training and ongoing labour market research directed toward the needs of the clerical workforce of Metropolitan Toronto. An Open House launch of their new name will take place on April 26 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Featured will be their new on-line discussion group for office workers, as well as the exciting research results on the impact of e-commerce. All College staff are welcome to attend. For more information and to RSVP, call ext. 4610.

Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

In June of 1999, the Ontario Government announced a reformation of the Ministry of Education and Training (MET). There are now two ministries — the new Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), and the Ministry of Education. MTCU is responsible solely for postsecondary education and training, and was created in response to the government's recognition of the importance of postsecondary education in Ontario's economic future. Dianne Cunningham is the Minister of MTCU. A former educator and self-employed management consultant, Cunningham has been involved in politics since 1973. She was appointed to Ontario's Cabinet in 1995 as the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister Responsible for Women's Federal-Provincial Relations. Cunningham also served as the Tory education critic for the NDP government.

College offers Con Ed students one-on-one career advice

George Brown is now offering continuing education students personal career advice and a wide range of services to help them find work or move into new careers. They can get help writing resumes, perfecting networking and interviewing skills and assessing their skills for career moves. Students can get one free one-on-one career advice session with CareerWise Consultant Maria Legall, and up to six follow-up sessions for only \$40—a service that can cost thousands of dollars in the private sector. Legall says many people take continuing education courses because they want to move into a new sector of the job market. Career advisement sessions can be scheduled for evenings and weekends. For information call Maria Legall at ext. 2797.



Commentator Gwynne Dyer praised the policy of limited international intervention currently adopted by NATO countries led by the United States, in a lecture at George Brown on Feb. 16. Military intervention in 1999 saved tens of thousands of lives in Kosovo and East Timor, he told students and staff. He described a media-savvy world in which television images of suffering and death create world-wide demand for action by western governments. But at the same time, these governments must limit their ground force interventions in order to prevent massive casualties of their own. The lecture was sponsored by the Office of Vice-President Academic.

city college people

New Academic Staff

Francis Ross, Professor, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; Anisa Khan, Professor, Centre for Continuous Learning; Brian Waters, Professor, Faculty of Technology; Mary Gibbons, Professor, Faculty of Business and Creative Arts.

New Support Staff

Susy Rego, ECE, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences; James Richardson, Technologist, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences.

Staff on the Move

Maria Denotar, Support Services Officer, Human Resources Department; Timothy Henshaw, Food Service Worker, Faculty of Hospitality; Munir Noormohamed, Administrative Assistant, Centre for Continuous Learning; Marco Ramos, Support Services Officer, Finance.

Leaving the College

Loren Canham, ECE, Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences.

Retiring from the College

Eugenie Gardner, Administrative Assistant, Centre for Continuous Learning; Marilyn Rinaldo, Chair, Faculty of Technology.

college calendar

FEBRUARY

28—March 3—Winter Semester Intercession Week:
No classes for full-time students.

MARCH

2—"Co-operative Learning: A Day of Interaction"
Seminar: A hands-on practical opportunity to enhance the learning and teaching experience. Presented/facilitated by Barrie Bennett, Ph.D., OISE/UT Professor. To be held at St. James Campus, Room 128 (Auditorium) from 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Sponsored by the Vice-President Academic and the Staff Resource Centre. For more information or to register, call Linda Purser at ext. 4661.

6-10—Graphic Design Students' First Year Show:
Outstanding pieces in design, typography and drawing will be displayed in the 2nd Floor showcases at St. James Campus. For information, call David Steele at ext. 2136.

8—Board of Governors meeting: To be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism, 300 Adelaide St. East, Room 310. All staff and students are welcome to attend. For more information, call Jacqueline MacNeil at ext. 4472.

9—College Council meeting: To be held at 8:45 a.m. at Casa Loma Campus, 500 Macpherson Avenue, Boardroom. All staff and students are welcome to attend. For more information, call Stephen Burr at ext. 2231.

13-16—Student Association Elections: Polls open at all campuses between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily. For information, call Jessica Shabor at ext. 2900 (89319).

20—Students With a Disability Forum: Forum will discuss accommodation and accessibility needs. To be held at Casa Loma Campus, Student Lounge, from 5–7 p.m. All staff are invited to attend. Sponsored by the Student Association and the Student Affairs Department. For information, call Paul Paleothodoros at ext. 4730.



How low can you go? The St. James Campus Student Lounge pulsated to island rhythms on Feb. 18 as limbo dancers showed off their flexibility—and dared students to join them. The display of traditional Caribbean culture was part of African Heritage Month celebrations at George Brown.

Caretaker Appreciation, continued from page 1

Ponniah noticed that some of his students weren't taking their work as seriously as he hoped they would: "They didn't seem to accept the idea that when in class, they were in a professional environment." So he told all his students that they could not bring food and drinks into his classroom. When asked why, Ponniah explained that it wasn't fair to the maintenance workers in the building.

The results proved that removing food and drink from classrooms did improve the attitude of the students. "They were more serious and I think it

also made them more sensitive to the broader community of people who inhabit the building, as well as making them more ecologically sensitive," says Ponniah. He adds that, "The exercise gave the students a sense that they bore responsibility for the growth of the larger organism known as George Brown College. I don't feel that this made me authoritarian or rigid."

What do you think about the "No Food/Drink" policy? *City College News* welcomes your comments. To have your say in an upcoming issue, please forward your submissions by e-mail to Neil McGillivray at nmccgill@gbrownc.on.ca (see ad on page 2).

THE CITY COLLEGE GEORGE BROWN

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Room 542 E, 200 King Street East.
Toronto, Ontario, M5A 3W8
Phone: 416.415.2059
Fax: 416.415.2303

editor: Neil McGillivray
production manager:
Lisa Bischoff
writers: Lisa Bischoff,
Neil McGillivray
production:
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